

AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 2002 NOMINATION

SITE INFORMATION

Name of Site

Address

City/State/Zip

Date Built

Ownership (choose one)

☐ Public

☐ Private

Owner Name

Owner Address

Owner Phone

Owner Fax

Historic Designation
(choose one)

☐ National Historic Landmark

☐ National Register Eligible

☐ National Register

☐ Other (explain)

☐ State/Local Designation

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name of individual/group nominating site

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

This form must be signed in order for the nomination to be considered.

The undersigned hereby gives to the National Trust for Historic Preservation a non-exclusive license to use, and to allow others to use, in whole or in part, in whatever manner the National Trust may desire, including (but not limited to) use for publicity, audiovisual presentation, and/or promotion, all photographs, videos, and other materials submitted to the National Trust in connection with America's 11 Most Endangered nomination. The National Trust is hereby given permission to make any editorial changes and/or additions to the materials referred to herein as it may deem necessary or desirable for production purposes. The undersigned hereby agrees that he has the authority to grant these rights, has obtained any such rights necessary from third parties, including without limitation, models, creators, photographers, writers and producers, and will hold harmless and indemnify the National Trust from and against any claim brought against the National Trust from third parties that may arise out of the violation of this paragraph.

Release authorized by

Signature

Print or type name and title

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

On a separate document, please provide the following information. All questions must be answered. Also attach any supporting materials, including photographs, news articles, correspondence, etc. **Please note: At least three quality 35mm slides are required.**

1. Describe the site.
2. What is the site's history? Has it been nominated or been named to other lists?
3. How well known is the site? Who goes there (tourists, school children)? Is it open to the public?
4. Why is this site important? What preservation issues does it exemplify (sprawl, inner city decline, etc)?
Please consider the following - how is the site unique? Why should anyone care that it is endangered?
5. Describe the threat to the site (is it due to natural disaster, poor maintenance, lack of funds, etc.)?
6. How significant is the threat (is the building about to fall, is the ship about to sink)?
7. How can the threat be eliminated (more money, change of ownership, education, legal protection, etc.)?
8. Who are the major players (are "friends of" groups, government agencies, private citizens involved)?
9. Who opposes preservation of this site?
10. How would listing this site as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places help save the site?
11. Other than listing this site, how can the National Trust alleviate the threat?
12. How has the National Trust been involved to date?
What role, if any, is there for the Trust if this site is put on the list?
13. Provide any additional comments/recommendations.
14. Provide names, titles, phone/fax of all appropriate contacts.

Please submit all nomination information, along with this completed form, **by Jan. 18, 2002** to:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation
Office of Communications

1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW • Washington, DC 20036
phone (202) 588-6141 • fax (202) 588-6299 • pr@nthp.org





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11 Most Endangered Places

Since 1988, the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage.

The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Some are well-known, such as Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania and Ellis Island in New York Harbor. Others, like the Kennecott Copper Mines in Alaska or the town of Petosky, Michigan, are less famous but just as important, because they too represent preservation challenges facing thousands of communities. Each site raises awareness about the dangers to specific parts of America's heritage and about preservation generally.

The list has now brought national attention to more than 120 significant buildings, sites and landscapes. At times, that attention has galvanized public support to rescue a treasured landmark, while in others, it has been an opening salvo in a long battle to save an important piece of our history. The 11 Most list has been so successful at educating the public that now more than 15 states and numerous cities and towns publish their own lists of endangered places.

Nominations are open from mid-November to the third Friday in January the year of the announcement. The list is published at the end of June.

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America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places
2002 Nomination

1. Describe the site.

The Lavonia Carnegie Library, located in Lavonia, Georgia, is situated in the Northeast Georgia area of Franklin County. The building was originally built with 2,600 sq. ft. and later expanded to 3,200 sq. ft.. The building sits on a corner lot accessible to the main street and a secondary street, and occupies land shared by an elementary school.

2. What is the site's history? Has it been nominated or named to other lists?

The Lavonia Carnegie Library was added to the National Historic Record in 1983. The Library's history actually began in 1904 when the Lavonia Woman's Club purchased 18 books and circulated them among its members. In 1908 the Club rented a room. Miss Leila Stovall became the first paid librarian. In 1909, the Woman's Club petitioned Mr. Andrew Carnegie and the Lavonia town officials for a building to house the library. The grant was given with the following conditions: Mr. Carnegie would give \$5,000 for the construction of the building if the town council would provide \$500 a year for 10 years for books and maintenance. At the end of the 10-year period the city would have complete control of the library. The present library, constructed in 1911, is adjacent to the school on land donated by Mr. R. T. Poole. The city operated the library until 1974 when it became a branch of the Athens Regional Library System.

3. How well known is the site? Who goes there (tourists, school children)? Is it open to the public?

The Lavonia Carnegie Library has been in continuous use as a library since it opened in 1911. It is open for five days a week to anyone who wants access to information and is one of five county libraries that serve the Athens Regional Library System in Georgia.

4. Why is this site important? What preservation issues does it exemplify (sprawl, inner city decline, etc.)?

This site is important because it illustrates the decline of an important, historic structure caused over time by lack of proper restoration initiatives. Concerning the importance of this library to Lavonia, Mr. Andrew Carnegie had a philosophy about building libraries. He spent over \$55 million on libraries and is often referred to as the "Patron Saint of Libraries." (Bobinski, 1969). Carnegie had two main reasons for donating money to the founding of libraries. He believed that libraries added to the "meritocratic nature" of America. Second, Carnegie believed that immigrants like himself needed to acquire cultural knowledge of America which the library allowed immigrants to do. Back in the early part of the 20th century, ten percent of \$5,000 was an enormous amount for upkeep of the library. The fact that Lavonia could do this shows how important the library was to the residents of the town and surrounding areas.

Regarding the importance of libraries in our culture and society, this treasure, one of the smallest Carnegie libraries built by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, is still in use today. The legacy of Andrew Carnegie remains an integral part of Lavonia, Georgia.

The significance of this structure from an architectural point of view is that it is the only library structure within Lavonia. Socially, the structure illustrates the influence of the Carnegie Foundation in a rural area of the South.

In local history, the Carnegie Library serves as a local landmark. For Georgia, this library holds a unique distinction. Besides being one of the smallest Carnegie libraries built in the state, it is one of seven surviving Carnegie libraries in the state. Originally, thirty Carnegie libraries were built throughout the state of Georgia. (Walker, 1994) If Georgia can serve as an example of what is happening throughout the United States, then there is a great threat to the legacy of Andrew Carnegie, one of America's finest examples of philanthropy and generosity to libraries and communities.

5. Describe the threat to the site (is it due to natural disaster, poor maintenance, lack of funds, etc.)?

Despite a renovation to the building in 1977, the library still suffers from many of its previous problems; a leaking roof, cracks in the walls, a crumbling foundation, and lack of space. Inadequate funding, lack of appreciation of this historic structure, and no grassroots initiative, remain major roadblocks to a full renovation and restoration of the building.

6. How significant is the threat (is the building about to fall, is the ship about to sink)?
According to the report of regional preservation planners and other consultants, the Lavonia Carnegie Library suffers from moisture problems which are "the leading causes of decay and eventual destruction in historic buildings". The lower brick foundation of the building has been sandblasted further damaging the foundation and may cause greater problems in the future. There is no sprinkler system which puts the threat of destruction at a greater risk.
Another threat, although not structural, are the suggestions of outside consultants recommending that the building be used for something else!

7. How can the threat be eliminated (more money, change of ownership, education, legal protection, etc.)?
The threat can be eliminated by educating the public and officials about the building's deterioration, as well as its funding problems. A well-planned publicity campaign combined with legislative lobbying might head off future problems. Two other Carnegie libraries in Georgia have been the recipients of several thousands of dollars in recent years.

8. Who are the major players (are "friends of" groups, government agencies, private citizens involved)?
The future of the Lavonia Carnegie Library rests upon many shoulders. First, the government officials, commissioners and state legislators, have a responsibility to keep alive the legacy of Andrew Carnegie. The Lavonia Downtown Development

Authority has already taken an interest in the restoration of the library. The Franklin County Library Board and Regional Library Board make determinations concerning the library. Also, concerned private citizens should and can take a lead in educating the population and government.

9. Who opposes preservation of this site?

No one opposes the preservation of this site.

10. How would listing this site as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places help save the site?

Listing this site would yield much needed publicity and public awareness, demonstrating that this state, county, and town take pride in historic buildings and what they stand for in our society, history, and culture.

11. Other than listing this site, how can the National Trust alleviate the threat?

By listing this site, the National Trust is showing its support and saying that this building is important to our country's historic legacy. In doing so, it will be a giant first step around which those interested in saving this building can rally. Rousing awareness of endangered places and structures seems to be the mission statement of the National Trust. What better cause than to save an early 20th century Carnegie library?

12. How has the National Trust been involved to date? What role, if any, is there for the Trust if this site is put on the list?

With the help of the the National Trust, many architectural and cultural sites have been saved, raising America's awareness to the dangers of neglect. Adding the Lavonia Carnegie Library to the long list of endangered historic places and buildings may help save many other Carnegie libraries. On a larger scale, the National Trust can turn attention to the plight of these aging Carnegie treasures. How many other libraries are facing the same fate?

13. Provide any additional comments/recommendations.

14. Provide names, titles, phone/fax of all appropriate contacts.

Kathryn Ames - Director of the Athens Regional Library System, Athens, Georgia
(706)613-3650 FAX (706)613-3660

Wayne Miller - Chairman of the Franklin County Library Board

Gary Fesperman, ~~Director of the Downtown Development Office~~, Lavonia, Georgia

Emma LeCroy, Branch Manager of the Lavonia Carnegie Library, Lavonia, Georgia

Edward Paterson

Betty Vandiver

Wayne Lawson, chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission

Doreen

Synopsis of the Franklin Co. Board Meeting on Monday, April 8, 2002, Lavonia, Georgia

Wayne called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

I actually was the first to give a report. I first reported on the Gates training that Rosie was supposed to go to. I read some excerpts from an e-mail from Ben Carter about his experience at the Gates training. I talked at length about training in general and mentioned many of the training sessions and workshops that Rosie and Emma have attended in the past three months. (I really didn't know at the time that SIRSI and Microsystems?? was sponsoring the training).

Next, I gave your report and tried to talk a little bit about each one, as well as the GLA meeting in Athens next October. Everyone seemed interested, but I didn't get any, "Give us more information", or "I want to go". The board did seem concerned about the security issue at the libraries and suggested that Rosie and Emma contact the local sheriffs and find out what more they can do to protect themselves. The Lavonia Women's Club is holding a security workshop sometime soon.

Emma and Rosie gave their reports and talked about the Vacation Reading Program. Rosie asked permission to take a class and the board voted affirmatively on that. We spoke briefly about the Lavonia FOL. Emma still needs to draft a letter, so I'm sure that it will again have to wait until the next meeting. Wayne wanted to know if you had contacted the Sec'y of State about the dissolution of Lavonia FOL.

The Board voted to amend the constitution. Sid will be representative to Carnesville. The School Board reps will change from 3 to 2 reps and the 1 rep will be added to Carnesville City Council. It is Article 4 that is changed.

Wayne requested that Royston be designated as custodian for the Board's minutes. This was added to Article 2, Section 3. It was added to the secretary's duties. Someone questioned who changes and keeps the By-Laws. Wayne will follow up on this.

About the budget....The School Board contacted Wayne and told him to expect 24,000 from Bd. of Ed. Wayne told everyone that they need to talk up the library at every opportunity, especially with an election coming up. He was advised not to go for the supplemental budget. He sent a letter instead. It hasn't yet been resolved. He asked for \$7,500. It's understood that both libraries need 2 people at all times and both need to be open for 40 hours/wk.

Next meeting July 15.